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In Iowa a new method of administration of the State University and other state schools was entered upon this last year. The boards of regents were abolished and the three state institutions are being governed by one board of education, the members of which are appointed by the governor. In Kansas a similar law has just been passed and awaits only the signature of the governor to make it effective.

If such radical changes are to be made it would seem wiser that they should come upon the initiative of the universities themselves rather than from politicians. At any rate it should be done only after a careful study of the whole situation.

This senate committee at the University of Illinois is entering therefore upon an auspicious work. It is expected that it will be engaged at least one year before a report will be prepared.

The members of the board of trustees of the university are much interested in this undertaking for they realize the need of a definition of their duties and powers and they will be only too glad to have a statement made of the relations of the board to the state government, on the one hand, and the relations of the board to the university, on the other hand.

Four leading members of the board—President William L. Abbott, Mr. Fred L. Hatch, for fifteen years a member of the board, Mrs. Mary E. Busey and Mrs. Laura B. Evans—were present at this initial meeting and gave it their hearty approval.

The fifteen members of the senate committee that is to carry on this important work during the coming year represent (either as graduates or as former instructors) some eighteen leading universities, three law schools, three technical schools, two colleges, all in the United States and five foreign universities and technical colleges. The members of the committee are the following: Professor Henry Baldwin Ward, chairman, Professor Arthur N. Talbot, Professor Herbert W. Mumford, Assistant Professor James H. Pettit, Assistant Professor Henry L. Rietz, Professor Frederick Green, Professor Ernest R. Dewsnap, Professor

Julius Goebel, Mr. Charles H. Mills, director of the School of Music, Mr. Phineas L. Windsor, librarian, Professor Boyd H. Bode, Associate Professor Wm. A. Oldfather, Professor Frederick M. Mann, Professor Edward S. Thurston, Mr. Charles M. McConn, secretary.

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. HENRY PICKERING BOWDITCH, professor of physiology at the Harvard Medical School for thirty-five years, eminent for his contributions to this science, died on March 13, in his seventy-first year.

DR. WILLIAM H. NICHOLS, president of the eighth International Congress of Applied Chemistry, was the guest of honor at a dinner tendered him by twenty-two members of the executive and sectional executive committees of that congress on March 7, at the Engineers' Club, New York City. The occasion for this dinner was Dr. Nichols' departure on an European trip. He will visit Italy, Austria, Germany, France, Belgium, Holland and England, and to the chemists of these countries he will personally carry invitations to the congress.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DAVID PRAIN, F.R.S., director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, has been elected a member of the Athenæum Club.

WE learn from *Nature* that Professor H. E. Armstrong, F.R.S., has been nominated the delegate of the Royal Institution at the celebration of the centenary of the Royal Frederick University of Christiania, and Sir James Crichton-Browne, F.R.S., as delegate at the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the University of St. Andrews.

PROFESSOR JOSEPH P. IDDINGS recently delivered two lectures before the geological department of the Johns Hopkins University on "Some Problems in Rock Classification."

DR. H. E. IVES, of the research department of the National Electric Lamp Association, delivered an illustrated lecture on "Color Measurement" at a well-attended open meet-

ing of the Case Chapter of the Society of Sigma Xi, in the physics building of Case School of Applied Science, on the evening of February 23, 1911.

MR. M. N. BAKER, editor of the *Engineering News*, gave a lecture on March 16, before the engineering school of the University of Vermont on "The Engineer and the City."

THE American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society in cooperation with the American Museum of Natural History, arranged at the museum, on March 23, an illustrated lecture on "The Physical History of the Grand Canyon District," by Professor Douglas Wilson Johnson, of Harvard University.

PROFESSOR G. W. RITCHEY, of the Solar Observatory of the Carnegie Institution at Mount Wilson, will give a lecture on "Celestial Photography," at Harvard University, on March 28. The sixty-inch mirror of the observatory is the work of Professor Ritchey's hands, and the lecture will be illustrated by recent photographs taken with that instrument.

THE nineteenth "James Forrest" lecture of the Institution of Civil Engineers, will be delivered on June 28, by Dr. F. H. Hatch, his subject being "The Past, Present, and Future of Mining in the Transvaal."

THE Huxley lecture at Birmingham University is to be delivered by Professor Henri Bergson, lecturer on philosophy at the University of Paris.

THE trustees of Columbia University have voted that the head professorship of physiology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons be named the Dalton professorship, in honor of the late Dr. John C. Dalton, who held the chair of physiology from 1860 to 1883, and was president of the college from 1884 to 1889. The professorship is now held by Dr. Frederic S. Lee.

WE regret to record the death, on March 1, of W. G. W. Harford, at Alameda, California. Mr. Harford was eighty years of age and had long been associated with the University of California, the Academy of Sciences and other institutions of research as collector,

curator, etc., and was a special associate of the late Dr. A. Kellogg, in his botanical expeditions. He published an early report on collections made in Alaska under the supervision of Professor George Davidson, and was especially interested in conchology.

MR. E. E. WILSON, formerly assistant in the radiography department of the London Hospital, died on March 2, as the result of disease contracted by exposure to Röntgen rays.

THE formal opening of the Chemists' Building, 50-54 E. Forty-first Street, New York City, took place on March 17, 18 and 19. At the dedication exercises the program was as follows:

Address by the president of the Chemists' Building Company, Dr. Morris Loeb.

Address by the honorary president of the Eighth International Congress of Applied Chemistry, Dr. Edward S. Morley.

Address by the president of the American Chemical Society, Professor Alexander Smith.

Letter from the president of Johns Hopkins University, past president of the Society of Chemical Industry.

Address by the president of the American Electrochemical Society, Professor William H. Walker.

Address on Chemical Education by Professor Wilder D. Baneroft.

Unveiling of Rumford Memorial by Professor Frank Wigglesworth Clarke.

Address by the president of the Chemists' Club, Dr. Russell W. Moore.

We hope to publish a full account of the building, of the exercises and of the scientific program of the following days.

A CONGRESS of technology which will give in the papers to be presented a record of the place and practical achievements of science in modern life, will be held in the buildings of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, on April 10 and 11. The sessions will be open to the public. This occasion also marks the fiftieth anniversary of the granting of the institute's charter, and the congress is therefore in part a celebration of this anniversary. During these fifty years the world has seen that "advancement, development and practical application of science in connection

with arts, agriculture, manufacture and commerce," which the institute was organized to promote. The institute has trained a number of men who are now in the very front rank of science. In addition to this its former students are to be found in positions of power and responsibility in every state of the union, engaged in the work of developing mines, opening up the country by means of railroads, applying scientific methods to the problems of transportation, power production and distribution, advancing chemical industries, conserving the public health and contributing in countless other ways to the increase of the nation's wealth. This practical application of science to the affairs of life will be surveyed and described, as also the conditions and problems of groups of allied industries, in a large number of papers by alumni and members of the faculty of the institute. The papers will cover such general subjects as architecture, business administration, economics, public health and factory sanitation, industrial organization and training, power production and distribution, materials and manufacturing processes, reclamation of arid lands. The subject of scientific management will be presented from many points of view, as it may affect railroads and various manufacturing industries. Among the speakers will be:

David Van Alstyne, '86, Allis-Chalmers Co., Milwaukee, Wis.

Henry G. Bradlee, '91, Firm of Stone & Webster, Boston.

Harvey S. Chase, '83, Certified Public Accountant, Boston.

Samuel M. Felton, '73, President, Chicago Great Western Railroad, Chicago.

Louis A. Ferguson, '88, Second Vice-president, Commonwealth Edison Co., Chicago.

Walter C. Fish, '87, Manager, Lynn Works, General Electric Co., Lynn, Mass.

John R. Freeman, '76, Consulting Engineer, Providence, R. I.

Charles Hayden, '90, Hayden, Stone & Co., Bankers, New York and Boston.

Henry M. Howe, '71, Professor of Metallurgy, Columbia University.

Edwin O. Jordan, '88, Professor of Bacteriology, University of Chicago.

Walter H. Kilham, '89, Architect, Boston.

James P. Munroe, '82, Executive Director, Boston-1915, Boston, Mass.

Frederick H. Newell, '85, Director, U. S. Reclamation Service.

Robert H. Richards, '68, Professor of Mining Engineering and Metallurgy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Albert Sauveur, '89, Professor of Metallurgy, Harvard University.

George C. Whipple, '89, Consulting Engineer, New York City.

Willis R. Whitney, '90, Director, Research Laboratory, General Electric Co., Schenectady, N. Y.

Salmon W. Wilder, '91, President and Treasurer, Merrimac Chemical Co., Boston, Mass.

C.-E. A. Winslow, Associate Professor of Biology, College of City of New York.

THE expedition, recently sent out by the American Museum of Natural History and the New York Zoological Society, to Lower California, under the leadership of Dr. Charles H. Townsend, has been successful in capturing six young California sea elephants (*Macrorhinus angustirostris* Gill), on Guadalupe Island. These specimens, the first ever captured alive, were sent from San Diego, California, on March 7, and arrived at the New York Aquarium on March 13, in excellent condition after their six-day trip. For transportation they were crated separately and shipped by express without food or water en route. Although not more than nine months old the average weight of these animals is about 250 pounds, and the length four and one half to five feet. The adult males reach a length of more than twenty feet. The species, which is distributed among the small islands of the southern and Lower California coast, is now verging toward extinction and very little is known of its life history or habits. The common name of the species is derived from the fact that the male possesses a protrusible snout or proboscis. In the young males now at the aquarium this is only slightly developed.

THE path taken by Halley's comet in 1909-10 is to be shown in a series of photographs now being prepared by the committee on comets of the Astronomical Society of America, of which Professor George C. Comstock,

of the University of Wisconsin, is chairman. The committee desires to secure a collection of material which will show by photographs the history of the comet from its first appearance until it was no longer visible even to the most powerful telescopes. The committee is requesting every astronomer who possesses any photographs of the comet to cooperate with them in making this history complete. The photographs used will be of four kinds: those possessing conspicuous technical excellence, those of good quality but having slight defects, those presenting obvious technical defects, and those obtained with small cameras by unskilled observers. As many as possible of the photographs used will be of the first class, but when it is necessary to make use of some of inferior excellence in order to avoid gaps in the history this will be done.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE appropriations for the U. S. Bureau of Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1912, show an increase of \$7,600 over the appropriations for the current fiscal year, as follows: For the investigation of rural education, industrial education and school hygiene, including salaries, \$6,000; one clerk at \$1,600. The total specific appropriations for the bureau are as follows: Salaries, \$72,800; library, \$500; collecting statistics, \$4,000; distributing documents, \$2,500; printing annual report, \$25,000; education of natives of Alaska, \$200,000; reindeer for Alaska, \$12,000.

THE legislature of the state of Utah, during its recent session, made an appropriation of \$300,000 to the State University for the construction of the main building of the institution. This building is to house the general library, the art gallery and the administrative offices. The legislature also passed a bill which has become a law, putting the support of the university and the agricultural college on a permanent financial basis by providing that these two institutions shall receive annually 28 per cent. of the income of the state derived from a  $4\frac{1}{2}$  mills tax. This 28 per cent. was divided between the institutions as fol-

lows: 64.43 per cent. to the university; 28.34 per cent. to the agricultural college and 7.23 per cent. to the branch normal school, a separate institution affiliated with the university. On the basis of present assessed valuations the annual income of the university for general maintenance is about \$200,000. New buildings and other constructions are to be provided by special appropriations.

THE legislature of Indiana, which adjourned on March 6, appropriated nearly \$200,000 to Indiana University for the next biennium. This appropriation includes \$150,000 additional maintenance, \$35,000 of which is for the Graduate School, and \$50,000 for the Medical School, for the maintenance of the Long Hospital.

ACCORDING to the daily press a graduate of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy whose name has been withheld, has offered to donate \$1,000,000 toward the erection of a comprehensive group of three buildings, one of which shall be specially devoted to research work, for the institution. He stipulated that the building shall be on the Parkway on a site provided by the city. Mayor Reyburn divulged this fact in discussing his plans for making the western end of the Parkway, between Logan Square and Fairmount Park, a great center for Philadelphia's educational, engineering, scientific, historical, art and research organizations.

MRS. BENJAMIN HICKS, of Old Westbury, N. Y., has bequeathed \$100,000 to Swarthmore College.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY has received the sum of \$693,000 from the executors of the estate of the late Mr. George Crocker, for the establishment of the Crocker Cancer Research Fund. It is understood that the remainder of the bequest is under litigation.

WE are requested to state that assistant professorships of physiology, anatomy and bacteriology and pathology are to be filled in the Philippine Medical School. Information respecting the positions may be secured by addressing the Chief of the Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department, Washington, D. C.